

into State government. The advice I got from everyone I asked was, "Get Spiegelman; he knows everything." Dick did join my team and served as my chief of staff and chief counsel for 8 years. Then, when I was elected State Treasurer, he served as my chief of staff.

Dick came to the U.S. Senate with me in 2007 as my legislative director and counsel. His intellect and encyclopedic knowledge soon led the younger members of my staff to begin referring to him as "Spiegeltron." During his 8 years as LD, Dick played a significant role in the big issues of our day, including the Affordable Care Act, TARP, Wall Street reform, and the American Recovery Act, as well as my legislative initiatives like the ABLE Act and pregnant women's support programs.

People from other Senate offices, the executive branch, and the lobbying world always remarked that Dick was unfailingly courteous, but always knew the substance of the matter at hand. No one could put one over on him. He supervised and mentored dozens of legislative staff members who worked under him and later moved on to key positions in government or the private sector. He was also known in the Senate for his sartorial splendor; few others could pull off a seersucker suit and a fedora.

A year ago, Dick decided to take a well-deserved retirement. Although no one believed that he would stay retired, he has confounded all of us by doing so—at least up to now. Dick's garden has expanded; he and his wife, Kathy, have dialed up their ballroom dancing skills to "Dancing with the Stars" levels; he sees his children, Alex and Margaret, more often; and he continues to offer wise counsel to those who seek it.

Dick Spiegelman represents the best in our American tradition of public service. The work that he did over the course of a 40-year career will live on, often permanently, in the form of well-crafted legislation; more honest and more efficient government; and the many, many young men and women who worked with him and who will follow his example throughout their own careers.

I thank Dick Spiegelman for all he has done for me, for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH R. JOHNSON

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life and honor the service of Vietnam veteran Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Johnson. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson passed away on August 29, 2015, and was laid to rest January 14, 2016, at Arlington National Cemetery. Born and raised in Minneapolis, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson

enjoyed playing music with his garage band, the Commodores, and studying airplanes. Upon graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1955, Johnson enlisted in the Minnesota Air National Guard, where he served for 2 years before entering the U.S. Air Force Academy to become an officer.

After he received his commission as a second lieutenant, Johnson went on to earn his wings and begin his career flying the F-100 Super Sabre, one of the planes that he would fly during the Vietnam war. It was in this plane that Johnson earned the Silver Star, defending the Tong Le Chan Special Forces camp, heroically making nine passes at low altitude against intense hostile fire in support of our troops. Later in the war, after being forced to eject over North Vietnam, Johnson would spend nearly 15 months as a POW in Hanoi. Despite this trying time, Johnson's resolve and the love he had for his country remained intact, and he continued to serve for many years after his release in 1973.

Our country will always need brave men like Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Johnson. He embodied our Nation's most cherished values and served as an example to us all. Today my thoughts and prayers are with his family, including his brother Phil; his two sons, Bradley and David; and his sister, Delores. May we always remember and cherish his memory. •

REMEMBERING DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished African-American civil rights activist, author, editor, publisher, and historian who left a remarkable legacy across the Nation and in my home State of West Virginia.

Dr. Woodson was born in New Canton, Buckingham County, VA, in 1875 to former slaves Anne Eliza and James Henry Woodson. Taking care of the family farm often took priority over his education; nevertheless, his thirst for knowledge drove him forward during the course of his life. He was a very bright student when he was able to attend school. Despite being taught theories of African-American inferiority of that time period, his well-grounded beliefs, credited to his father, kept his spirits high and only added fuel to the influence he would one day share with the world.

James and Anne Eliza first moved into the region on the Ohio River that became Huntington, WV, in 1870. There, James Woodson worked with many other former slaves to complete the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. Dr. Woodson and his older brother Robert Henry Woodson then delayed their move and took jobs working in the West Virginia coalfields of Fayette County. Here, Dr. Woodson, who had not yet attended high school, often read to his fellow coal miners who were illiterate, as he had been doing for his

illiterate father. The collection of books and newspapers he accumulated for this task broadened his horizons about the world.

Ambitious for more education, the largely self-taught Dr. Woodson enrolled in 1895 at Douglas High School and received a diploma in less than 2 years. He began his teaching career in 1897 in Fayette County and would later return to Huntington to become the principal of Douglas High School. In the years to come, he continued to travel across the United States and throughout Europe and Asia. He received degrees in history from the University of Chicago and Harvard University. He became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard.

Countless individuals inspired this great man. Whether citing a speech from Booker T. Washington or a friendship with a fellow coal miner, it is clear that Dr. Woodson saw education as the great equalizer. He could see beyond what he considered "miseducation" as a way to continually improve both the education of others and of himself—and ultimately generations of students of all races. He had fierce opinions and was unafraid to challenge what was then considered as "known" information.

Dr. Woodson continued to travel in later years, lecturing to various African-American organizations and institutions. In 1921, he created the Associated Publishers, which was dedicated to issuing books by African-American authors. In 1926, he orchestrated Negro History Week, held in connection with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass and later extended to African-American History Month. Libraries and schools have been named in honor of this brilliant man—a testament to his commitment of embracing our knowledge of the history that shaped this great Nation. Particularly now, as we celebrate African-American History Month, it is fitting that we should honor such a man as Dr. Woodson. He has inspired countless leaders to fearlessly challenge what they believe is unjust and to inspire others to do the same. His legacy is one of constantly striving to better oneself and truly sets the standard for all leaders who have followed and will continue to follow in his footsteps. •

TRIBUTE TO ANN MARION FURUKAWA DONDERO

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, just about every successful person can point to a teacher or other adult who inspired and encouraged them as a child, a person who spurred curiosity and love of learning. Today I wish to recognize the hard work and dedication of one of my constituents who played that role for countless Oregonians Ann Marion Furukawa Dondero from Forest Grove.

Ann was raised in Sunnyside, WA, and graduated from Whitman College in 1966 with a psychology degree and a

teacher's certificate. She taught first grade for 3 years in St. Paul, MN, while her husband, Russ, completed graduate school and later taught second and fourth grade in Boiling Springs, PA, when Russ started his political science teaching career.

When Ann and Russ moved their young family to Forest Grove, Ann continued her education and enrolled in night classes at Pacific University where Russ had started teaching. In addition to raising their two sons, Tony and Jason, Ann also began volunteering in Forest Grove's library across the street from her classes.

Eventually, Ann's enthusiasm to share her love of reading turned into a career spanning five decades. The library became Ann's classroom where she worked with parents and caregivers to help children become active readers.

In 1975, Ann and her former colleague Barbara Dunnette organized BEAR month—Be Enthusiastic About Reading—at the Forest Grove Library, and the tradition has continued ever since. January 2016 will be the 37th annual BEAR month at Forest Grove.

Ann's dedication and love of learning is an inspiration to our State and our Nation, and I have no doubt there are kids today who are better off because of Ann's selfless devotion. I thank Ann for her many years of hard work and for the great things she has done to promote reading and literacy in the Forest Grove community.●

TRIBUTE TO ANNE WOIWODE

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Anne Woiwode of Okemos, MI, as she ends 35 years of service with the Sierra Club's Michigan chapter. Through her leadership, the organization's work has been critical in preserving numerous wilderness areas, tracking and curtailing pollution, and leading the fight for clean energy in the beautiful State of Michigan. I am honored to acknowledge Ms. Woiwode's career-long commitment to safeguarding the flourishing habitats and environmental wonders Michigan has to offer.

Ms. Woiwode began her involvement with the Sierra Club as a young mother after moving to Michigan with her husband, Tom, in 1980. Her impact was felt immediately, and the environmental community grew quickly. In 1983, Anne became the chapter chair, and in 1985 she became its first executive director. Knowing the power of collaboration in changing policy, she helped form the Michigan Environmental Council, MEC, in 1980, serving in many leadership roles over the years. Thanks to her direction, the MEC is a fully independent organization with over 70 member groups, and it continues to provide policy expertise to the environmental community.

Breathtaking wildernesses like the Nordhouse Dunes and Sturgeon River Gorge exist due in part to Ms. Woiwode's dedication. She was instru-

mental in the establishment of 90,000 acres of protected wilderness under the Michigan Wilderness Heritage Act of 1987. Today countless species of plants and animals flourish in these protected ecosystems.

In addition to working to preserve Michigan's diverse ecosystems, Ms. Woiwode also dedicated over a decade of work to reducing pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, CAFOs, or animal factories. Ms. Woiwode came to listen when rural residents and small family farms reached out for help, even though they were too intimidated by their CAFO neighbors to provide names. Countless stories and evidence of animal waste carried into Michigan's waterways, toxic fumes from millions of gallons of raw sewage spread on massive farm fields, and sickness were responded to in attempts to reduce CAFO pollution. While it's still a problem in Michigan, thanks to Ms. Woiwode, the Sierra Club's Michigan chapter is recognized as the national expert in tracking CAFO pollution.

While her commitment to protecting Michigan's ecosystems and tracking pollution are worth acknowledging alone, Ms. Woiwode's leadership in turning Michigan toward a clean energy future is perhaps the most important step in preserving Michigan's environment. Through the Clean Energy NOW Coalition, she organized environmental and citizens groups to protest the construction of eight proposed coal power plants in Michigan without additional review by the Governor. The coalition's emphasis on citizen pressure and legal avenues led to a Governor's executive directive requiring further review of the proposed plants and eventually a complete stop in construction.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Ms. Anne Woiwode's service to the Sierra Club's Michigan Chapter. While her passion and leadership will be dearly missed, I know she has inspired future generations to continue fighting for the natural wonders and beautiful, vibrant ecosystems of Michigan.●

VERMONT ESSAY FINALISTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD copies of some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the sixth annual "What is the State of the Union" essay contest conducted by my office. These finalists were selected from nearly 800 entries.

The material follows:

FARYAL AFSAR, MOUNT MANSFIELD UNION HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

"Whoever kills an innocent person it is as if he has killed all humanity"—Quran 5:32.

Being a Muslim girl in the world, I hear many bad things about my religion or my country. Sometimes when people come to know that I'm a Muslim girl they may think that I'm a terrorist, yet I wonder how only 0.03% extremists can represent 1.6 billion

people of the world. As a child, I grew up in a loving Muslim family. My parents didn't even permit us to kill a spider or an ant. I was never told to spread violence in the world. I was never taught in my school or house to be an extremist. In my reading of our holy book, I only found words of wisdom and peace so then why are the extremists labeled as Muslims? How can we say they belong to a certain religious group if they kill innocent people?

As an exchange student from Pakistan coming to Vermont, I was first afraid of coming to a country that may see me as a terrorist since I am a Muslim. I thought I may be bullied or someone would call me a terrorist in school but the love I have received from people here is what I had never imagined. But still when I hear negative news about Muslims or my country on TV or the internet, it hurts me. I want to help people understand Islam and my country. A month ago after the ISIS attacks in Paris, this topic was raised again and political leaders started saying that Muslims shouldn't be allowed to enter the U.S. I ask, is this really the solution to the terrorist problem? How is it that I have been welcomed so warmly through this exchange program and yet there are those who generalize and state that Muslims are not welcome here?

Each year hundreds of exchange students from the Muslim world come to the U.S and the students and their host families form a special bond. These relationships form strong connections and the memories live forever. Our country's leaders should look at what we are doing; young people can play just as an important role as our current leaders. We are not spreading any violence; we are trying to know each other. We are humans and we care about each other. It's not because we're from the same background or religion. What matters the most is how strongly we are bonded to each other.

The problem of terrorism is not a problem for one country but for the whole world, and the solution to it is not blaming each other and closing boundaries but rather knowing and helping each other. I believe that if people open themselves to new experiences and start knowing each other, the world would be a good place.

MEGAN BROMLEY, MILTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

My fellow Americans, sometimes overlooked are the basic human rights and needs of the people. While this may entail many topics, I would like to focus on a major issue that has slid under the radar for far too long. The epidemic of rape and sexual assault runs rampant through our country and not much has been done to change this continuing tragedy. Steps may be taken. The first step must address the unprocessed rape kits. Throughout our country there are over 20,000 unprocessed rape kits. Add to this the estimate that 68% of rapes or sexual assaults that occur go unreported. Imagine how large the number of unanalyzed kits there would then be if even 50% more were to be reported. This is a challenging issue and it cannot be solved overnight, however there are steps to take in the right direction aside from moral and ethical obligations.

One solution that could be enforced is a quota, by this I imply that every city must meet a certain number of kits processed in order to get the number of prosecutors facing jail time or other capital punishment inclining. Too many cases go without investigation even after the kit has been used and the victim has been tested, this crime is not fading away and must be faced head on not shied away from due to technical complications that can be entirely avoided. The federal government should follow through with